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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 XMB-02 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 /128 W
----------046645 251218Z /44
R 251119Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4449
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USEEC, USOECD, GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, PINR, IT
SUBJECT: PERSONNEL CHANGES IN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY

REF: ROME 11928

1. RAFFAELLO TRIOLI, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE SINCE LATE 1975/EARLY 1976, HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO ITALIAN MISSION IN GENEVA. BACKGROUND OF AND REASONS FOR TRANSFER OF TRIOLI, WHO AS DIRECTOR GENERAL HAD REACHED HIGHEST LEVEL IN ITALIAN CIVIL SERVICE, REMAIN SOMEWHAT UNCLEAR. TRIOLI TOLD US THAT FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER OSSOLA HAD PROPOSED TRANSFER SOME TIME AGO AND AFTER THINKING IT OVER FOR TWO MONTHS, TRIOLI HAD DECIDED TO ACCEPT. OSTENSIBLY, PURPOSE OF TRIOLI TRANSFER IS TO BEEF UP ITALIAN REPRESENTATION IN GENEVA. ACCORDING TO TRIOLI, WHO NOW EXPECTS TO MOVE TO
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GENEVA AT END OF JULY, HIS WILL BE A NEW POSITION ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO A COMBINATION OF ECONOMIC MINISTER AT US MISSION GENEVA AND DCM AT USDEL MTN, WITH MAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL ECONOMIC ISSUES, INCLUDING MTN, HANDLED BY ITALIAN DELEGATION GENEVA. TRIOLI MOVES TO GENEVA WITH MIXED EMOTIONS, ALTHOUGH HE APPARENTLY LOOKS FORWARD TO NEW EXPERIENCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN MTN.

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2. EMBASSY HAS FOUND TRIOLI TO BE HIGHLY COMPETENT BUREAUCRAT WITH LONG EXPERIENCE IN TRADE ISSUES (PRIOR TO PRESENT ASSIGNMENT HE SERVED SEVERAL YEARS AT ITALIAN MISSION TO OECD). TRIOLI IS A HARD WORKER WHO SPENT MUCH TIME ON THE ROAD, HANDLING BOTH MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL TRADE ISSUES. FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BEGINNING IN THE FALL OF 1976 TRIOLI SERVED CONCURRENTLY AS CHIEF OF CABINET TO OSSOLA, BUT THOSE FUNCTIONS WERE GRADUALLY ASSUMED BY BARATTIERI (SEE BELOW). TRIOLI IS WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE US, PERSONALLY FRIENDLY AND USUALLY MORE OPEN AND FRANK THAN HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY COUNTERPARTS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EMBASSY. HE SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH AND FRENCH. HIS WIFE SPEAKS FRENCH BUT NO ENGLISH. THE COUPLE HAS FOUR CHILDREN RANGING IN AGE APPROXIMATELY FROM 16 TO ONE.

3. THE BENEFICIARY--AND POSSIBLY INITIATOR--OF TRIOLI'S TRANSFER IS VITTORIO BARATTIERI, PRESENTLY ACTING AS CHIEF OF CABINET TO MINISTER OSSOLA. SON OF AN ITALIAN DIPLOMAT, BARATTIERI ATTENDED HIGH SCHOOL IN THE US AND LATER WORKED AS TECHNICAL ASSISTANT TO ITALIAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE IMF. HE SPEAKS FLUENT AND COLLOQUIAL ENGLISH WITH A SLIGHTLY ENGLISH ACCENT AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, HAS CLEARLY BEEN IN-FLUENCED IN MANNER AND ATTITUDE BY HIS LONG US SOJOURN.
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BARATTIERI SERVED FOR NUMBER OF YEARS AS AN OFFICIAL OF THE BANK OF ITALY (BOI), PRIMARILY IN THE PRESTIGIOUS RESEARCH OFFICE. DURING THE CARLI-OSSOLA PERIOD AT THE BANK, BARATTIERI WAS CLEARLY ONE OF THE BRIGHT MEN ON THEIR WAY UP. BARATTIERI TOOK LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE BANK TO RUN FOR PARLIAMENT ON THE REPUBLICAN TICKET IN 1976. ALTHOUGH HE MADE MANY HEADLINES BY HIS ATTACKS ON THE TREASURY AND THE THEN TREASURY MINISTER EMILIO COLOMBO FOR ALLEGEDLY UNDER-STATING ITALY'S BUDGETARY DEFICIT--THUS MARKING HIM AS BEING AHEAD OF HIS TIME--BARATTIERI WAS DEFEATED. HE THEN MOVED, ON LOAN FROM BOI, WITH OSSOLA TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (MFT), SERVING AS OSSOLA'S PRIVATE SECRETARY AND "ECONOMIC ADVISOR." SEVERAL MONTHS AGO HE BECAME ACTING CHIEF OF OSSOLA'S CABINET. HIS FORMAL APPOINTMENT TO POSITIONS OF CHIEF OF CABINET AND DG FOR COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS IS EXPECTED SHORTLY.

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R 251119Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
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USMISSION GENEVA
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USEEC, USOECD, GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN
LL4. BARATTIERI IS SOMEWHAT OF A PHENOMENON IN ITALIAN
GOVERNMENT CIRCLES. BRASH, OUTSPOKEN, SUPREMELY SELF-
CONFIDENT AND VISIBLY AMBITIOUS--THOUGH AT THE SAME TIME
HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND HIGHLY ARTICULATE--HE CLEARLY
HAD NO PATIENCE FOR A CAREER OF MOVING THROUGH THE
BOI IN HOPES OF EVENTUALLY (20-30 YEARS) BECOMING
GOVERNOR. WHILE HIS MOVE TO MFT WITH OSSOLA ENABLED HIM TO KEEP
A FOOT IN BOTH "CAMPS" (I.E. BOI AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, HIS
CAREER PROSPECTS WERE DIRECTLY LINKED TO OSSOLA. HIS NOMINA-
TION AS DIRECTOR GENERAL IN MFT, HOWEVER, GIVES HIM
PERMANENCY IN THE BUREAUCRACY WHILE BREAKING HIS TIES
WITH THE BOI. AS DG, HE IS AT THE TOP LEVEL OF THE CIVIL
SERVICE. THE APPOINTMENT ITSELF WAS HIGHLY UNUSUAL
IN THAT, COMING FROM OUTSIDE THE CIVIL SERVICE RANKS,
IT REQUIRED APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

5. BARATTIERI CANNOT HELP BUT HAVE STEPPED ON MANY
TOES, AS A "YOUNG MAN IN A HURRY" IN THE ITALIAN
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BUREAUCRACY, AND THUS IS A SUBJECT OF BOTH ENVY AND
DISAPPROVAL. NONETHELESS, BARATTIERI WILL UNDOUBTEDLY
CONTINUE TO BE A FIGURE OF INFLUENCE AND IMPORTANCE.

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WHILE HIS FIELD OF ECONOMIC EXPERTISE IS
MONETARY AFFAIRS AND HE APPARENTLY BRINGS LITTLE
EXPERIENCE OR FAMILIARITY WITH TRADE ISSUES TO HIS
NEW POSITION, EMBASSY EXPECTS HE WILL MASTER THE
SUBJECT MATTER IN SHORT ORDER. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY
EXPECTS CLOSE AND CORDIAL WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH
BARATTIERI. LIKE HIS MINISTER, HE IS VERY WELL DISPOSED
TO U.S. AND PHILOSOPHICALLY COMMITTED TO LIBERAL TRADE.
NOT UNIMPORTANTLY, HE GIVES EVERY INDICATION OF BEING
QUITE PREPARED TO DO BUREAUCRATIC BATTLE ON ISSUES
HE CONSIDERS IMPORTANT.

6. BARATTIERI IS A FREQUENT CONTRIBUTOR TO ENGLISH
AND ITALIAN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS. IN PARTICULAR
HE WRITES ARTICLES FOR INTERNATIONAL BANKER UNDER
THE PEN NAME OF VICTOR BARRETT, AND RECENTLY HAS
WRITTEN A NUMBER OF ARTICLES FOR THE TURIN DAILY
LA STAMPA. BARATTIERI IS MARRED TO A MEMBER OF THE
PACELLI FAMILY (WHOSE NUMBERS INCLUDED POPE PIUS XII). GARDNER

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